Trade with Kazakhastan and Uzbekistan

2221. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while India's exports to Kazakhastan and Uzbekistan in 1994-95 amounted to Rs. 47.75 crore, imports therefrom stood at Rs. 38.8 crore;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor indicating Government's reaction to the Exim Bank's study report in this regard as reported in the Times of India dated 31st July, 1996; and

(c) whether Government propose to go for import of goods in raw material form with a view to re-exporting value added finished products from India as suggested by Exim Bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) The details of India's exports to Kazakhastan and Uzbekistan and imports from there during 1994-95 are given below:—

(In Rs. Crore)

	Exports	Imports	Total
Kazakhastan	25.62	12.62	38.24
Uzbekistan	22.13	26.20	48.30

(Source : DGCI&S)

(b) The Times of India dated 31st July, 1996 (published from Delhi) was consulted but no such report seems to have appeared. However, it needs to be mentioned that despite the major macro economic changes which have taken place in Kazakhastan and Uzbekistan, India has recorded a steady increase in trade with Kazakhastan and Uzbekistan since 1993 details of which are given below:—

India's Exports

(In Rs. Crore)

	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Kazakhastan	8.47	25.62	29.9
Uzbekistan	4.7	22.13	23.03

India's Imports

	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Kazakhastan	6.63	12.62	26.57
Uzbekistan	4.31	26.18	35.53

(Source : DGCI&S)

Thus it is seen that our trade with Kazakhastan and Uzbekistan has shown a growth of 32% during the years 1995-96 as compared to the figures of 1994-95.

(c) Government of India encourages Indian exporters to promots trade with different countries including Kazakhastan and Uzbekistan by participating in trade/exhibitions/sending delegations, and holding Buyer-Seller Meets, The actual conduct of the business is negotiated by businessmen who are generally guided by the principle of price competitiveness.

Check on the Price

2222. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that during the period April—June 1996 there has been a spurt in the prices of some varieties of pulses, like Masoor, Arhar, Rice, Wheat, Maize, Khandsari, Tea and Oils, etc.;

(b) if so, the increase in the prices over the last quarter, percentage-wise;

(c) the reasons for the spurt in the prices; and

(d) the reasons for the measures taken in the past to check the rise in prices not yielding any results?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b) A statement showing the percentage variation in the wholesale price indices of selected esential commodities during the quarters ending June '96 and March '96 is given below :—

Commodity	Quarter	
	April—June '96	Jan.—March '96
Masoor	10.8	— 4.9
Arhar	6.1	— 0.2
Rice	4.9	1.2
Wheat	1.4	2.6
Maize	10.2	1.5
Khandsari	7.5	— 1.6
Tea	17.8	— 5.3
Vanaspati	0.6	— 2.9
Mustard Oil	3.5	— 5.9
Groundnut Oil	3.9	— 1.3

(c) The increase in the prices of some commodities like pulses, edible oils etc. are mainly attributed to gap in demand and supply, near stagnancy in production, hike in minimum support/procurement prices of agriculture commodities. The supply of most of the above commodities is very comfortable during Jan.—March, every year due to flush supply of Kharif Crop like Masoor, Arhar, Rice, Maize, Sugarcane and Groundnut Oil etc. but the same gets reduced with the onset of lean supply season from April onward till the end of October every year.

(d) With a view to keeping the prices of essential commodities under check, the Public Distribution System is being strengthened to provide Foodgrains at cheaper rates to the poor strata of the society. Besides, stringent actions are being taken against the speculators, hoarders and traders indulging in unfair trade practices. The essential commodities are also being supplied through Co-operative Stores, Mobile Stores, Kendriya Bhandars etc. at reasonable prices. Essential Commodities like pulses and edible oils are being imported in desired quantities to augment their supplies in the domestic market. The efficacy of these measures can not be judged in short period. They have longer perspective and hence the price rise during the entire year will be a better parameter. Since the controlling of price is the ongoing process of the Government policy, temporary variations in prices are inescapable.

देश में बेरोजगार व्यक्तियों की संख्या

2223. **श्री रामजीलाल** : क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) 1 अप्रैल, 1996 तक देश में रोजगार कार्यालयों में कितने बेरोजगार व्यक्तियों के नाम दर्ज थे और इसका राज्य-वार ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ख) इनमें से उन व्यक्तियों की संख्या कितनी है जिन्होंने मैट्रिक से उच्च स्तर तक शिक्षा प्राप्त की है तथा उनकी संख्या कितनी है जो अशिक्षिति हैं और उनकी संख्या कितनी है जो मैट्रिक पास से कम पढ़े-लिखे हैं;

(ग) उनमें से हरियाणा के कितने व्यक्ति हैं;

(घ) पिछले पांच वर्षों के दौरान कितने व्यक्तियों को रोजगार उपलब्ध कराया गया; और

(ङ) हरियाणा में सभी बेरोजगार व्यक्तियों को कब तक रोजगार उपलब्ध कराया जायेगा और इस संबंध में सरकार की क्या योजना है?

श्रम मंत्री (श्री एम० अरूणाचलम) : (क) 31.3. 1996 के अंत में देश के रोजगार कार्यालयों के चालू रजिस्टर पर रोजगार चाहने वाले व्यक्तियों, जिनमें यह आवश्यक नहीं कि सभी बेरोजगार हो, की राज्यवार संख्या संलग्न विवरण में प्रस्तुत है। **(नीचे देखिए)**

(ख) और (ग) 31.3.1993 (नवीनतम उपलब्ध) की स्थिति के अनुसार, देश में तथा हरियाणा राज्य में रोजगार कार्यालयों में पंजीकृत रोजगार चाहने वाले व्यक्तियों के शिक्षा ब्यौरे निम्न प्रकार थे :